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GENERAL

The current economic situation is characterized by a rather high degree of stability and of balance between consumer purchases and inventories of supplies.

The United States Department of Commerce indicates that new orders in consumer industries are about equal to sales. This also is true in industries in which civilian and defense production are important. However, in these industries receiving the bulk of defense work, new orders remain considerably in excess of current sales. This suggests some further advance for the future in total national output.

In spite of some shortages of materials, civilian consumption remains at high levels. The "increase in defense outlays through the fourth quarter of 1951 was accomplished largely out of an increase in national output, rather than at the sacrifice of production for private investment or personal consumption."*

The Department of Commerce indicates that of the 60 billion dollars increase in national output since the beginning of the Korean conflict, about 29 billion has gone for direct federal defense spending, 9 billion for plant and equipment, and 22 billion for personal consumption.

The increase in personal savings rather than shortages has prevented the rate of personal consumption from rising to higher levels, and there has been some increase as compared with a year ago in the number of unemployed. Insured unemployment was 975,000 during the week of March 10, 1951 compared with 1,286,000 for March 8, 1952. In Oklahoma, however, the number of people seeking jobs was lower last month than in any other March on record. Total industrial production is increasing after a dip in mid-1951, and further increases are planned for defense spending.

Buyer resistance is also showing in reductions in prices of many consumer goods. Retail prices paid by moderate-income families were 0.6 percent lower in mid-February than in January. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that this is the first decline in average retail prices since June, 1951, although decreases in primary market prices have persisted since late last year. However, it was the drop in food prices that was chiefly responsible for the change. The Consumers' Price Index in February was still 2.2 percent above a year earlier and 10.4 percent above the pre-Korean figure of June 1950.

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* Karl O. Nygaard, "Economic Impact of Federal Government Programs," *Survey of Current Business*, March, 1952, p. 8.

Prices Received by Farmers

Prices received by Oklahoma farmers for all commodities in March were fractionally higher than those in February as a result of small increases in the prices of cotton lint, chickens, and eggs which were up 3.1 percent, 8.5 percent, and 1 percent respectively, and the following products for which the increase was less than one percent: wheat, corn, barley, and hogs. Prices of rye, grain sorghums, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and sheep remained unchanged from the month earlier. Prices received for all other products included in the index declined during the month (see price statistics, page 34).

Compared with last year, the March index of prices received dropped from 351 in 1951 to 312 in 1952—a decline of 11 percent. This 11 percent decrease in prices received by farmers is accounted for by declines in the price of all meat animals, chickens and eggs, cotton, and cottonseed.

Increases over the March, 1951 level are shown for wheat, corn, barley, rye, grain sorghums, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, wholesale milk, and butterfat.

Prices Paid by Farmers

The March index of prices paid by farmers remained unchanged from the previous month, but showed increases in prices paid over a year earlier. Commodities used in farm family living were up only seven-tenths of one percent over March, 1951, but commodities used in farm production were up 2.5 percent.

These increases, coupled with the decline in the index of prices received, brought the March, 1952 parity index down to 100 percent of the 1910-14 level compared with 111 last year. If Oklahoma prices received by farmers is used instead of the national average, the ratio becomes 108 instead of 100. In March, 1951 the ratio was 125, when using prices received by Oklahoma farmers.

Price Supports

The following price supports were reported March 28 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in **Agricultural Prices:**

Date issued	Commodity	Support Price
2-21-52	1952-crop cotton	The loan rate for 1952-crop Middling 7/8" cotton will average at least 30.91 cents per pound. This support level will be increased accordingly if 90 percent of the August 1 parity price is higher. USDA 397-52.
3-19-52	Dairy products-1952	Effective April 1, prices of milk for manufacturing will be supported at $3.85 per hundred pounds and butterfat at 69.2 cents

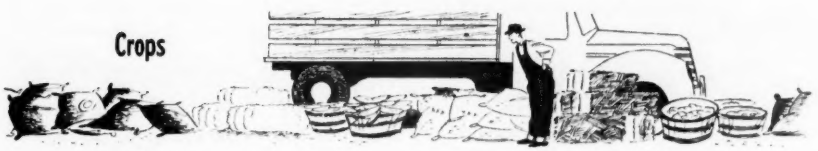
per pound. This program will be implemented by an offer to make carlot purchases of dairy products during the year beginning April 1 at the following prices:

Butter: U.S. Grade A or higher	67.75 cents per pound
U.S. Grade B	65.75 cents per pound
Cheddar cheese: U.S. Grade A or higher	38.25 cents per pound
Nonfat dry milk solids:	
Spray process	17.00 cents per pound
Roller process	15.00 cents per pound

These prices are intended to reflect 90 percent of the parity equivalent of manufacturing milk, and of the parity price of butterfat as of the beginning of the marketing year. USDA 607-52.

3-19-52 1952-crop Peanuts — The 1952-crop farmers' stock peanuts will receive price support at a national average minimum level of $239.40 per ton. This represents 90 percent of the February 15, 1952 parity price, and will be increased proportionally if the parity price at the beginning of the marketing year, August 1, is higher than on February 15. USDA 605-52.

3-21-52 1952-Honey — The price of honey will be supported at a national average level at 11.4 cents per pound, which reflects 70 percent of the parity price adjusted to a 60-pound container level. Farm and warehouse storage loans and purchase agreements will be available to beekeepers and cooperative associations of beekeepers. The honey export and diversion programs will be continued on bases similar to those of the 1951 programs. USDA 628-52.—**G. P. Collins.**



COTTON

Domestic cotton consumption, plus exports for the period August 1, 1951 through February, 1952, is estimated at 9.5 million bales.

"—the disappearance of 9.5 million bales during this period compares with 8.9 million in the corresponding seven months last season and 8.1 million two years ago. Domestic mills consumed 5.5 million bales through February this season against 6.3 million a year earlier. United States exports through February were about 4.0 million bales compared with 2.6 million for the same period last season."*

Although in recent months there has been a decline in prices of foreign-grown cotton and a decline in the rate of mill consumption in some importing countries, the Office of Foreign Agriculture still expects United States exports to approximate 6 million bales for the current season. With domestic mill consumption on an annual basis at the rate of 9.2 million and United States exports at 6 million bales, the disappearance in 1951-52 may be about 15 million bales. Disappearance was 14.6 million bales for last season.

The current estimate of ginnings for the 1951 crop is about 15 million bales. With a carry-over on August 1, 1951, of 2.1 million bales, the 1951-52 supply of upland cotton is 17.1 million bales. If disappearance of 15.2 million bales for this season develops as projected, the carry-over on August 1, 1952 would again be about 2 million bales or about the same as last year.

Thus, with just a 2-million bale carry-over, the acreage planted and condition of the United States crop may again tend to influence strongly the size and frequency of cotton price changes during the 1952 season. If this is true, it would seem that the problem as to what quantity constitutes a desirable level for carry-over might well be re-examined in view of the risk and uncertainties of crop production, and the current level of domestic and foreign demand.

Some doubt has been expressed by the trade and others that the cotton goal of 28 million planted acres and 16 million bales will be reached. Apparently, probable high labor cost, the availability of labor and machines, the comparative labor requirements and relative prices of alternative enterprises may be the factors that determine the acreage planted. It is likely that if the planted acreage falls short of the goal, or the condition of the crop is below average, cotton prices may rise above the current level.

Demand at the retail level and at the mill has strengthened in the past few weeks.—**Raymond B. Marshall.**

WHEAT

The major change of the last few months is the increased export of wheat from the United States in this 1951-52 crop year.

The statement in the December issue of **Current Farm Economics,** "Exports may be as much as 325 million bushels" was an understatement. It looks now as if United States exports will be at least 400 million bushels.

* U.S.D.A P.M.A. Market Information Section—Cotton Branch.

A major reason for this increased demand is the decreased amount of wheat available for export from the Southern Hemisphere. The wheat available for export from Argentina and Australia will be approximately 90 million in their December, 1951—November, 1952 crop year. This is less than half of 220 million bushels the previous year. All of these exports will come from Australia, for production in Argentina this year was not large enough to cover domestic requirements.

Of the total 1951-52 United States wheat supplies, it now appears that the approximate amounts for domestic use will be 500 million bushels for food, 88 million for seed, 125 million for feed, and 2 million for alcohol—a total of 715 million bushels.

If the exports are 400 million bushels, the total United States disappearance will be approximately 1,115 million bushels—the highest on record except for the 1943-48 war and post-war period. As the total 1951-52 estimated supply was 1,423 million bushels, the amount left for carry-over the next crop year would be just 308 million bushels. This would be not only less than the carry-over last July of 396 million bushels, but less than the 10-year average (1941-50) of 334 million bushels.

Wheat prices should remain about the same as they are now. The size of the on-coming crop will, of course, influence the level. The export demand, which is keyed in part to world uncertainty, will also influence prices.

Of concern to farmers, as well as to elevator operators, is the recently announced grain sanitation program of the Food and Drug Administration. It will be necessary that farm and commercial grain storage facilities be kept in excellent condition, so that wheat will not be classified as unfit for flour. It will be classified as unfit if it has three or more weevil exit holes per quarter pint of grain, or one or more rat or mouse pellets per pint. Just how the program will be conducted is not yet known.—**Adlowe L. Larson.**

Feed

Of particular significance in the feed situation is the number of livestock on farms. A total of 174 million grain-consuming animal units on January 1, is the largest number since 1944 and represents a 1.5-percent increase over last year. Sustained feeding rates during the fall and winter reduced the stocks of feed grains on hand January 1 to 9.7 percent below last year's levels. Much of this consumption reflects an ardent effort to dispose of soft corn supplies before warm weather, but the result is a decline of 10.3 percent in the supply per animal unit and relatively high prices for feed grains.

As compared to last year, the changes in numbers of animals on farms are as follows:

	United States	Oklahoma
Milk cows	—1.3%	—7.1%
other cattle	+10.9	+14.6
Hogs	+ 1.7	— 4.0
Horses and mules	—11.0	—13.6
Chickens	+ 2.4	— 4.0
Sheep	+ 2.2	+ 5.4
Total grain consumers	+ 1.5	— 3.8

Of most importance nationally is the growth in numbers of "other cattle," which are significantly more grain-consuming in the cornbelt than in Oklahoma. High levels nationally in the numbers of cattle, hogs, and chickens have had a weakening effect on the markets for these animals and their products. This, combined with strong feed prices, has resulted in less favorable ratios between the prices paid for feed and those received for the livestock product.

The reduction in number of milk cows, and the resulting decline in the supply of milk for rapidly increasing population, is largely responsible for the fact that the number of pounds of dairy ration that can be bought with a hundred pounds of milk wholesale has not declined as much as have other livestock-feed price ratios. Particularly is this true in Oklahoma.* The dairy cow's competitive position for feed has strengthened. It may become strong enough to stop the reduction in cow numbers and insure a more adequate supply of milk.

As of March 1, 1952, farmers' intentions to plant feed-grain crops offer little hope for increasing the national supply. Although production goals announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture call for increases of 6 percent in acreage and 12 percent in production, planting intentions indicate no change in corn acreage, reductions of 10 percent in barley and 11 percent in all sorghums, and an increase of only 2.9 percent in oats acreage, or a slight overall reduction amounting to 1 percent in the four crops combined. Oklahoma's indicated acreage for planting is 18 percent below last year. If these intentions are carried out, favorable growing weather will be required to avoid a more critical feed situation next year than that we have just experienced.

On the other hand, intentions to plant soybeans are up 35 percent in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, 33 percent in Texas, 30 in Arkansas, 25 in Missouri, and 4 percent for the country as a whole, which becomes a factor in the protein feed outlook.

Strong Demand for High-Protein Feeds

Demand for high-protein feeds has continued strong. Although production of oilseed cakes and meals was 11 percent larger in the last quarter of the year than in the same three months of 1950, stocks at the end of the year were only one-third as great. Production of other high-

* A hundred pounds of wholesale milk in Oklahoma in December-January, 1951-52, would buy 128 pounds of dairy feed, as compared to 121 pounds at the year end 1950-51 and 124 pounds in 1949-50.

protein feeds was smaller than in the previous years. Gluten feed production was off 12 percent and distillers' dried grains off nearly one-fourth. Ceiling prices were placed on wet-corn-milling by-products January 11 as follows: corn gluten feed, 23-percent, $61.00; corn gluten meal, 41-percent, $81.00; corn oil cake, flakes, or meal, 20-percent, $64.00; and all other, $61.00. These are producers' prices, bulk, at Chicago, Kansas City, or St. Louis, subject to adjustments for transportation, protein content, handler's base-period mark-up (December 19, 1950—January 25, 1951), sacking charge of $7.00 per ton, and sales of less than carlots.

Favorable range and pasture conditions have made it possible to stretch the feed supply in central and north central Oklahoma, but in other parts of the state moisture deficiencies have limited the growth both of small-grain and native-grass pastures. Moisture conditions appear favorable in the Osage and eastern sections, only fair in central and north central areas, but poor to very dry in some southern and most western parts of the state. Hay prices have been high in much of Oklahoma and adjoining areas, but national supplies appear adequate.

In planning the program for the year ahead, it is likely that many dairymen especially will want to give consideration to the production and judicious use of supplementary pastures as an important source of protein in the ration.—**F. L. Underwood.**

BEEF CATTLE

Total meat production for 1952 is expected to be slightly above 1951.* Most of the increase will occur in the late winter and spring. On January 1, the total number of meat animals on farms was 5 percent above the level for January, 1951, and was the third largest on record. The number of cattle and calves on farms this January was a record 88.1 million, 7 percent more than last January. Since 1949, the number of cattle has increased 11 million head, or 15 percent. Beef cattle experienced a much faster increase than milk cattle. There were approximately 5 million head of cattle and calves on feed this January—11 percent more than a year earlier and representing a new high.

Trends in slaughter of livestock for the next year or longer are expected to follow recent trends in numbers. The large inventory of cattle—both in total and for steers and fed cattle—indicates an increase in cattle slaughter in 1952 over the relatively small slaughter of 1951.

* *The Livestock and Meat Situation*, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, January-February, 1952.

This added to the January 1 holdings of meat in cold storage, which were the largest for that period since 1937, should make a strong supply situation for 1952.

Price trends for meat animals in the last several months have revealed a weakness. Last year at this time prices were rising. Cattle prices drifted downward after about last September to this January. Better grades, however, have since shown more stability. The price trends are primarily a readjustment from the very high levels of 1951. The usual seasonal movements are the most likely prospect for cattle prices this spring. Prices of top grades may drop moderately. Prices of cows and lower grade heifers and steers may rise in response to the seasonal demand for grass cattle. The price gain for these grades is expected to be less than last spring.

Supplies of grazing cattle are larger than last year. Prices of the lower grades have not dropped as far below the top grades this winter as in most winters. As a result, there is less chance of their rising so much relative to top grades. Finally, it is typical of an increasing supply situation to be characterized by greatest price declines for the lower grades.—**Robert L. Tontz.**

DAIRY

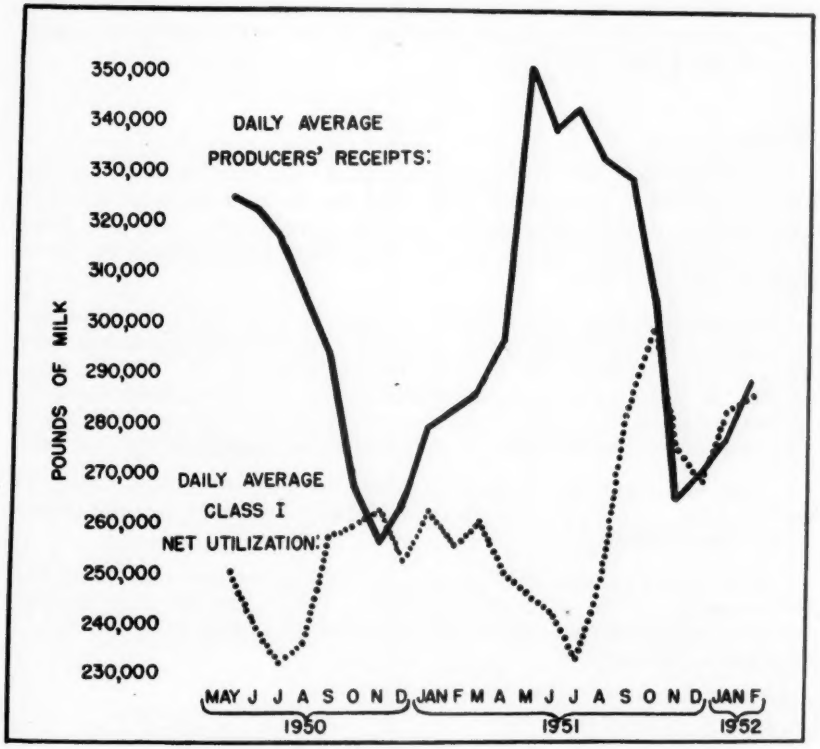
Dairy products, except butter, are in a strong demand position, with fluid milk being strongest. There has been considerable drop in butter prices during the past three weeks, although production and cold storage holdings have been below average. Butter prices probably nave been too high in comparison with other foods for some time.

Milk cow numbers on January 1, 1952, were lower than last year by 1.3 percent for the nation and 7.1 percent for Oklahoma.

Fluid milk prices to producers averaged higher in 1951 than in 1950. For February, 1952, the (blended) or uniform price to producers at Oklahoma City was $6.50 per 100 pounds for 4 percent milk. For February, 1951, this price was $5.43. However, despite these improved prices, the number of producers supplying the Oklahoma City market has remained nearly constant. Alternate enterprises requiring less labor, as beef cattle raising, are attracting many dairymen, and they are reducing dairy operations.

The seasonality of production in Oklahoma still remains a big problem. There was a wide fluctuation of monthly fluid milk receipts with the portion used for Class I or fluid milk from producers at Tulsa for the 22-month period, May, 1950 to February, 1952 (Figure 1). The balance was used for manufacturing purposes and brought less money to producers. If production could be leveled out at about 300,000 pounds daily, the producers' blended prices would be improved for several months in the year, and the necessity of bringing in "out-of-state" milk would be removed for some others. For the months of November 1950 and 1951 and for January 1952, production in the area was less than Class I usage. For two years, Class I utilization was the lowest in July.

Oklahoma sour cream prices are generally discounted because of low quality. While this discount is decreasing because of the smaller amounts of low-grade cream, there is still need for improvement in quality. The Federal Food and Drug Administration report much more improvement in Oklahoma cream and butter than in some near-



DAILY AVERAGES

Month	Producers' Receipts	Class I Utilization	Month	Producers' Receipts	Class I Utilization
May, 1950	324,556	250,632	April, 1951	296,307	250,460
June	322,201	240,998	May	350,625	246,457
July	316,767	232,626	June	338,728	242,405
August	304,839	236,864	July	342,208	233,166
September	294,281	257,271	August	332,434	251,868
October	267,949	259,910	September	328,055	283,666
November	256,853	262,133	October	304,846	298,940
December	265,446	252,120	November	264,714	275,559
Jan. 1950	279,559	262,766	December	270,869	268,145
February	282,465	255,968	Jan. 1952	277,562	282,859
March	286,392	260,719	February	288,683	285,738

Figure 1.—Daily average producers' receipts as compared to net Class I utilization (Tulsa, Okla., milk marketing area).

by states, but "warns" there is danger in over-confidence. This agency is continually on the alert to check the quality of food sold to consumers.

Every effort should be made by producers and processors in Oklahoma to improve the quality and price of Oklahoma dairy products. Big factors in carrying out this program are storing at 60 degrees F. or lower, and delivering cream two to three times per week (April and May are good months to start these practices) to the cream station or creamery.—**A. W. Jacob.**

HOGS

Hog slaughter will average slightly above last year until mid-spring, but is expected to average less than 1951 for the remainder of the year. The increase during early spring is based upon larger farrowing prior to September, 1951. Beginning in September farrowings were down from the previous year.

Slaughter of hogs this summer is expected to be much less than last summer. A slaughter reduction is probable for barrows, gilts, and sows. By fall, hog slaughter will be considerably short of 1951 for the same period. It will then reflect the decrease in the spring pig crop, if the intended reduction of 8 percent in sows farrowing this spring materializes. The year's total hog slaughter is expected to be slightly below last year.

The total number of hogs on farms on January 1 was almost 64 million head. This was a two percent increase over 1951 and the largest number since 1944.

Hog prices are expected to advance this spring and may reach the corresponding 1951 prices this summer. Prices this fall may decline less than usual for that season and may average higher than last fall.—**Howard S. Whitney.**

POULTRY

Price data in the accompanying tables (I to IV) tells the story vividly. Existing price relationships are forcing rapid liquidation of laying flocks. The price for eggs has apparently reached the low level of the year. However, most producers will not find it profitable to continue producing eggs at this price level. The egg-feed price ratio of 6.7 in February and 6.9 in March, which are the lowest on record, are the results of counter movements of eggs and feed prices. There are no indications that the egg-feed ratio will improve materially in the next four months. This must await the production of another feed crop.

Supply of eggs is expected to increase during the next two months, but will likely reach the seasonal peak production period from two to three weeks earlier than usual. Producers have started marketing hens in greater numbers, which has been reflected in weakened prices for chickens for February and March of 1952 as compared with 1951.

TABLE I—Egg Prices Received by Oklahoma Farmers, January, 1942 to March 15, 1952. (Cents per dozen)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1942	30.2	24.8	25.0	24.4	25 7	27.0	27.0	27.5	29.4	31.4	33.2	34.7	28.4
1943	35.4	33.3	32.9	32.4	32.9	33.3	32.6	32.6	34.3	37.5	39.0	39.6	34.6
1944	32.4	31.6	29.7	26.0	26.7	27.0	28.0	28.5	29.9	32.6	38.6	41.1	31.0
1945	37.5	31.2	30.7	30.8	30.5	31.1	32.3	33.5	30.0	35.0	44.7	45.5	34.4
1946	37.5	29.4	30.1	29.7	30.0	30.0	32.0	32.0	40.0	44.0	41.0	43.0	34.9
1947	38.1	35.1	36.0	37.5	36.5	36.7	38.3	37.4	43.6	47.8	47.7	57.6	41.0
1948	44.3	39.7	38.3	38.3	35.4	36.4	37.0	38.0	41.7	46.0	52.0	53.0	41.6
1949	43.0	40.5	37.9	38.3	38.4	36.7	36.5	38.4	42.4	46.0	46.1	40.9	40.4
1950	28.4	27.6	27.8	26.3	26.1	25.9	26.4	29.4	32.9	36.5	40.5	59.2	32.2
1951	37.5	36.7	37.1	38.4	39.3	35.6	35.7	37.2	48.8	49.4	51.4	52.5	41.6
1952	37.7	27.9	28.2										

SOURCE: "Prices Received by Farmers," Mid-Monthly Release, Agricultural Statistics Division, B.A.E., U.S.D.A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

TABLE II—Chicken Prices Received by Oklahoma Farmers, January, 1942 to March 15, 1952. (Cents per pound)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1942	14.8	15.3	15.8	16.1	16.8	16.8	15.9	16.7	17.9	17.8	17.2	17.7	16.6
1943	19.0	19.8	20.7	22.1	22,1	22.6	22.3	21.7	22.0	22.3	22.5	21.9	21.6
1944	21.9	22.2	22.2	21.4	21.5	21.8	21.8	21.4	22.0	21.4	21.4	22.1	21.8
1945	21.8	22.1	22.5	23.2	24.0	24.7	24.9	25.8	22.8	21.8	20.9	21.4	23.0
1946	21.6	21.6	21.7	22.4	23.5	23.4	25.5	23.4	24.0	27.0	21.9	22.4	23.2
1947	22.4	21.2	23.0	23.8	23.5	22.2	22.0	22.0	22.5	23.4	22.1	21.6	22.5
1948	22.2	22.4	23.0	24.0	24.0	26.0	28.2	25.7	27.0	26.4	25.8	28.0	25.9
1949	27.0	27.0	26.2	28.1	24.8	21.6	20.0	20.4	20.6	19.8	19.9	19.7	22.9
1950	17.3	18.2	19.5	19.3	18.4	18.4	18.4	20.8	19.6	19.2	19.5	19.7	19.0
1951	21.0	23.6	25.0	25.5	25.7	22.5	22.5	20.7	28.7	21.2	21.2	21.0	22.6
1952	21.4	21.0	22.8										

SOURCE: "Prices Received by Farmers," Mid-Monthly Release, Agricultural Statistics Division, B.A.E., U.S.D.A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

TABLE III—Poultry Ration Cost Per 100 Pounds, to Oklahoma Farmers, January, 1942 to March 15, 1952.
(Dollars)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1942	2.01	2.07	2.13	2.12	2.11	2.11	2.10	2.17	2.16	2.14	2.16	2.20	2.12
1943	2.37	2.39	2.45	2.53	2.60	2.63	2.71	2.77	2.75	2.77	2.82	2.86	2.64
1944	2.91	2.92	2.92	2.95	2.96	2.91	2.88	2.87	2.78	2.71	2.71	2.69	2.85
1945	2.72	2.73	2.76	2.79	2.78	2.80	2.84	2.86	2.85	2.89	2.91	2.94	2.82
1946	2.96	3.02	3.10	3.11	3.35	3.49	3.84	3.81	3.63	3.58	3.63	3.47	3.42
1947	3.39	3.42	3.77	3.85	3.85	3.81	3.94	4.08	4.35	4.42	4.53	4.76	4.01
1948	4.92	4.36	4.47	4.56	4.48	4.34	4.17	3.77	3.51	3.43	3.45	3.53	4.08
1949	3.52	3.41	3.45	3.52	3.45	3.29	3.33	3.32	3.29	3.27	3.25	3.30	3.37
1950	3.29	3.29	3.34	3.45	3.53	3.45	3.53	3.56	3.44	3.34	3.39	3.52	3.43
1951	3.65	3.78	3.76	3.86	3.86	3.77	3.79	3.78	3.76	3.83	4.00	4.12	3.82
1952	4.16	4.14	4.09										

TABLE IV—Egg-Feed Price Ratios, Oklahoma.*
(Pounds of poultry ration equal in value to one dozen eggs)**

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1942	10.0	12.0	11.7	11.5	12.2	12.8	12.9	12.7	13.6	14.7	15.4	15.8	12.9
1943	14.9	13.9	13.4	12.8	12.7	12.7	12.0	11.8	12.5	13.5	13.8	13.8	13.2
1944	11.1	10.8	10.2	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.7	9.9	10.8	12.0	14.2	15.3	10.9
1945	13.8	11.4	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.4	11.7	10.5	12.1	15.4	15.5	12.2
1946	12.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.4	11.0	12.3	11.3	12.4	10.2
1947	11.2	10.3	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.2	10.0	10.8	10.5	12.1	10.2
1948	9.0	9.1	8.6	8.4	7.9	8.4	8.9	10.1	11.9	13.4	15.1	15.0	10.0
1949	12.2	11.9	11.0	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.6	12.9	14.1	14.2	12.4	12.0
1950	8.6	8.4	8.3	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.5	8.3	9.6	10.9	11.9	16.8	9.4
1951	10.3	9.7	9.9	10.0	10.2	9.4	9.4	9.8	13.0	12.9	12.8	12.7	10.8
1952	8.6	6.7	6.9										

SOURCE: "Prices Received by Farmers," Mid-Monthly Release, Agricultural Statistics Division, B.A.E., U.S.D.A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

* These ratios are not indicative of and must never be interpreted as "cost of production." They include only cost of feed, and all other costs of production are in addition.

** Poultry feed ration: percentages of specified feeds include commercial mash, 32.7 percent; home mixed mash, 11.2; commercial scratch, 4.0; corn, 14.0; wheat, 16.3; oats, 9.9; barley, 1.3; sorghum grain, 10.6 percent. Individual producers' ration cost may be more or less than the above stated costs as estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In case poultry-ration cost and egg prices for producers in any community differ from those shown in Table III and Table I, respectively, the actual ratios can be calculated by dividing actual egg prices per dozen by feed costs.

Hatchery activity for the first two months of the year indicates increased output for the U.S. of 18 percent above last year. Oklahoma hatcheries reported a production of 3,920,000 chicks in 1952 compared to 3,480,000 in 1951. The demand has been primarily for broiler production. The small percentage for flock replacement is indicative of producers' dissatisfaction with price relations. If past actions are indicative of present trends, the flock replacements may actually be smaller than sound management principles would justify.—**K. C. Davis.**

SHEEP, LAMBS, AND WOOL

As reported in **Current Farm Economics** previously, the numbers of sheep and lambs on farms in the United States reversed a nine-year downward trend in 1951, and the 1952 preliminary estimate released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates that the number on farms this year will be approximately 3.5 percent larger than last year.*

Prices in general have been somewhat weaker this year than last and since the situation is not likely to change much soon, about the usual seasonal price movements are expected this spring. However, domestic situation changes could alter this condition.

Wool.—Production of wool in the United States is expected to be slightly larger this year than last. The world production, however, is expected to be about the same. The average price received by domestic growers declined for the 12th successive month in March. No major change is expected in wool prices, and indications are that in the near future they will remain close to the parity level.—**Ray Billingsley.**

* *Livestock and Meat Situation*, U.S.D.A. B.A.E., Statistical Appendix, January-February, 1952, p. 21.

Prices Received by Farmers, Price Indexes, and Indexes of Purchasing Power of Oklahoma Farm Products (1910-1914=100)

	Prices				Price Indexes				Purchasing Power Indexes[1]			
	1951			1952	1951			1952	1951			1952
	March	Jan.	Feb.	March	March	Jan.	Feb.	March	March	Jan.	Feb.	March
	(Dollars)				(Percent)				(Percent)			
Grain					246	264	261	262	87	91	90	90
Wheat (bu.)	2.17	2.28	2.26	2.27	252	265	263	264	89	92	91	91
Corn (bu.)	1.54	1.84	1.79	1.80	237	283	275	277	84	98	95	96
Oats (bu.)	.98	1.05	1.06	1.00	218	233	236	222	77	81	81	77
Barley (bu.)	1.33	1.45	1.44	1.45	226	246	244	246	80	85	84	85
Rye (bu.)	1.50	1.80	1.75	1.75	175	210	204	204	62	73	70	70
Grain Sorghums (bu.)	1.21	1.43	1.40	1.40	178	210	206	206	63	73	71	71
Cotton and Cottonseed					386	314	292	300	136	109	101	103
Cotton lint (lb.)	.417	.346	.320	.330	369	306	283	292	130	106	98	101
Cottonseed (ton)	105.00	74.00	73.00	72.00	537	378	373	368	190	131	129	127
Miscellaneous Crops					210	306	297	281	74	106	102	97
Potatoes, white (bu.)	1.70	2.40	2.50	2.50	153	216	225	225	54	75	78	78
Potatoes, sweet (bu.)	2.45	3.40	3.40	3.40	199	276	276	276	70	96	95	95
Hay, all loose (ton)	21.60	32.10	30.20	27.60	245	364	342	313	87	126	118	108
Total Crops					331	296	282	286	117	102	97	99
Meat Animals					495	460	460	459	175	159	159	158
Cattle (cwt.)	27.50	26.20	26.30	26.20	569	542	544	542	201	188	188	187
Calves (cwt.)	32.40	30.40	30.70	30.60	543	509	514	513	192	176	177	177
Sheep (cwt.)	19.20	12.50	13.00	13.00	416	270	281	281	147	93	97	97
Lambs (cwt.)	36.20	27.50	25.60	24.80	621	472	439	425	219	163	151	147
Hogs (cwt.)	21.10	17.40	17.10	17.20	300	247	243	244	106	85	84	84

Prices and Indexes, Cont'd.

	Prices				Price Indexes				Purchasing Power Indexes[1]			
	1951			1952	1951			1952	1951			1952
	March	Jan.	Feb.	March	March	Jan.	Feb.	March	March	Jan.	Feb.	March
	(Dollars)				(Percent)				(Percent)			
Dairy Products					270	307	313	301	95	106	108	104
Milk, wholesale (cwt.)	4.75	5.70	5.65	5.40	246	295	293	280	87	102	101	97
Butter (lb.)	.67	.71	.73	.72	299	317	326	321	106	110	112	111
Butterfat (lb.)	.65	.73	.75	.72	278	312	320	308	98	108	110	106
Chickens and Eggs					224	208	175	181	79	72	60	62
Chickens (lb.)	.250	.214	.210	.228	266	228	223	243	94	79	77	84
Eggs (doz.)	.371	.357	.279	.282	208	201	157	158	73	70	54	54
Total live stock and Livestock Products					398	381	376	374	141	132	130	129
All Commodities					351	321	310	312	124	111	107	108

SOURCE: Compiled by Dept. Agri. Econ., Oklahoma A. and M. College, from data supplied by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Washington, D. C.

For previous years, see Oklahoma Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. 238, *Oklahoma Farm Price Statistics, and Current Farm Economics*, Okla., Exp. Sta. Series 49, Vol. 13, Nos. 1 and 2, Feb.-Apr., 1940. Tables 16-19, and subsequent issues.

[1] The ratio of prices received by farmers to prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production.

—Allene W. Stinson.

Price Indexes in the United States and Oklahoma and Indicators of Changes in Domestic Demand

Year and Month	PRICE INDEXES Average 1910-14=100					INDICATORS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC DEMAND	
	Index of Prices Received by Farmers		Index of Prices Paid by Farmers United States	All-Commodity Index of Wholesale Prices United States	Oklahoma Hog-Corn Price Ratio[2]	Index of Demand Deposits Oklahoma[3, 4] 1923-25=100	Index of Factory Payrolls[5] 1939=100
	Oklahoma[1]	United States					
1925	164	156	157	151	11.05	106.5	
1926	134	145	155	146	16.44	102.0	
1927	134	139	153	139	14.54	100.5	
1928	151	149	155	141	10.72	100.3	
1929	145	146	153	139	10.65	92.3	
1930	112	126	145	126	11.04	77.4	
1931	71	87	114	107	14.30	60.6	
1932	51	65	98	95	14.59	47.3	
1933	65	70	99	96	7.36	44.9	
1934	90	90	112	109	4.73	53.3	
1935	107	108	117	117	10.35	60.8	
1936	109	114	116	118	9.33	74.6	
1937	111	121	123	126	11.36	82.1	
1938	82	95	116	115	15.64	84.9	
1939	84	93	121	113	11.33	89.4	
1940	92	98	123	114	8.61	92.0	113.6
1941	117	122	130	127	13.77	86.6	164.9
1942	152	157	152	144	14.35	107.4	241.5
1943	172	188	167	150	11.69	162.3	331.1
1944	181	195	176	152	10.56	215.9	343.7
1945	184	202	181	154	11.95	285.3	293.5
1946	226	233	203	177	11.56	335.3	271.1
1947	286	278	246	222	13.34	348.5	326.9
1948	293	287	264	241	12.69	353.3	351.4
1949	257	251	253	226	15.00	347.4	352.2
1950	272	256	261	236	14.25	346.8	371.9
1951	334	302	284	267	12.88	273.1	432.2
1951 Mar.	351	311	283	269	13.70	274.2	435.0
Apr.	350	309	284	268	13.20	270.5	433.2
May	352	305	285	266	12.42	263.5	428.4
June	343	301	286	265	12.86	257.5	434.3
July	328	294	285	261	12.88	264.1	422.8[6]
Aug.	312	292	285	258	13.52	264.4	429.4[6]
Sept.	309	291	285	258	13.80	268.0	437.8[6]
Oct.	319	296	287	259	13.23	276.6	434.2[6]
Nov.	335	301	288	259	11.03	286.0	433.9
Dec.	328	305	288	258	9.89	291.3	444.1
1952 Jan.	321	300	289	258	9.45	292.3	.....
Feb.	310	289	290	255	9.55	286.1	.....
Mar.	312	289	290	251	9.56	.....	.....

SOURCES: Indexes of Oklahoma prices received by farmers, computed by Dept. Agri. Econ., Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta., Stillwater, Oklahoma. Indexes of U. S. prices received and prices paid by farmers and indexes of U. S. wholesale prices, from *Agricultural Prices*, Bur. of Agri. Econ., U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. Indexes of demand deposits in Oklahoma, calculated by Dept. Agri. Econ., Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta., from data furnished by Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D. C. Indexes of factory payrolls, from U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C.

1 Prices received by Oklahoma farmers for 21 commodities. For data prior to 1925 see Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. No. 283.

2 These figures indicate the number of bushels of corn that could be purchased with 100 pounds of live hogs at current Oklahoma prices received by farmers.

3 Demand deposits of Oklahoma member banks of the Federal Reserve System located in places under 15,000 population.

4 Index numbers based on net demand deposits prior to 1936 and upon gross demand deposits since that date. For a discussion of this index see CURRENT FARM ECONOMICS, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station Series 49, Vol. 13, Nos. 1 and 2. Feb.-Apr. 1940. p. 41.

5 Unadjusted for seasonal variation.

6 Revised.